

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT

1. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3 line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

The publication "Proc. Intl. Conf. On Image Processing ICIP, Lausanne, vol.1, 16.09.1996, pp.763-766 (Liao et al)" describes an intra-update method for video coding via channels prone to errors. This method analyses the specific sensitivity of macro blocks for channel errors and obtains a specification for the intra-update modes.

2. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4 line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

One exemplary embodiment codes a sequence of digitized images with a plurality of image blocks in error-prone networks wherein the macro blocks in a section of the image are coded in a first intra-coding mode depending on predetermined criteria (See, Fig. 3, step 310). Furthermore, the macro blocks in a section of the image are coded in a second intra-coding mode or in an inter-coding mode wherein in the inter-coding mode for the macro blocks, movement vectors are selected from the number of accessible reference images (See, Fig. 3, step 320). The selection from the number of accessible reference images is limited in such a way that referencing takes place from image areas that were not subjected to the first intra-coding mode at a later stage (See, Fig. 3, step 330). This helps to prevent a reference being made in the case of the inter-coding mode to the reference image areas that are subjected at least partially to an intra-coding mode. If the coding in the first intra-coding mode is carried out particularly for reasons of error robustness in order to avoid the reproduction of errors in the case of incorrect transmissions, this ensures that the coding is not based on image areas that were transmitted incorrectly. Therefore, an efficient and at the same time error robust coding, is provided in error-prone networks.

3. Please insert the following paragraph after page 6, line 16:

Fig. 3 shows a flow chart according to an embodiment.

4. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8 line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

in which case $D_{DFD}(m, r, v)$ is the distortion according to the movement compensation and $R_{motion}(m, r, v)$ contains the number of bits that are needed for coding the specific movement vector. The function $((D_{DFD}(m, r, v) + \lambda_{motion} R_{motion}(m, r, v))$ is a so-called Lagrange cost function that contains the Lagrange multiplier λ_{motion} . This function is minimized whereby optimum movement vectors are determined regarding the distortion and the memory space requirement for the movement vector. Therefore, as a first result, optimized movement vectors $v(m, r)$ are obtained for each reference image r and for each macro block coding mode m .

5. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9 line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

f the vector $\{f_1, \dots, f_K\}$ in which case the variable f_i is the digit that gives the number of the reference image for the i -th image block for which the last intra-updating mode was carried out; and

6. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9 line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

$s_{\min f_i}(v(m, r), f, k)$ is an operation that determines the number of the reference image for the image block k depending on $v(m, r)$ and f that, on the basis of the reference image limitation, is the last permitted reference image.

7. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10 line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

If all the image blocks of an image were processed, the vector f is updated for all the entries f_k for which the error robustness flag c_k is set at 1. As a result, a reference image limitation is avoided for such intra-coding modes that were performed for reasons of coding efficiency and thus the appearance and disappearance of objects can be efficiently executed by means of coding with the aid of a number of reference images.